

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 6, 15, 19 and 20 stating "The [word] hierarchical is misspelled." Applicants believe, Applicants cancellation of claims 1, 6, 19 and 20 makes the Examiner's objection moot.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract stating "The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract lacks narrative format. Correction is required." In response, Applicants have amended the abstract.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Buffet et al. (U.S. Patent 6,631,502). Applicants have canceled claims 1-20 and added new claims 21-40.

Applicants respectfully point out that Buffet et al. teaches a first voltage island nested in an integrated circuit chip which is exactly one order of nesting. Applicants claims 21-40 are drawn to a set of at least two voltage islands nested one within the other and further nested in a parent terrain which is at least two orders of nesting. In particular, Buffet et al. does not teach "N voltage islands denoted as V₁, V₂,..., V_N nested within said parent terrain, N at least 2, voltage island V_Z nested within a voltage island V_{Z-1} for Z=1, 2,..., N."

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-456.

Respectfully submitted,
FOR: Bednar et al.

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